(b) It was recommended that importance should be given to Animal Husbandry, Fishery, Forestry and Water Management to improve the agricultural production and productivity.

(c) Recommendations have been noted.

Housing Projects in the country

1148. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a very slow investment in the Housing Projects in the country;

(b) whether during the last four decades urban population in India has increased from about 380 million ot 770 million;

(c) whether during the same period investment in housing has increased from Rs. 1000 crores in the 5th plan to 30,000 crores in the Seventh plan period;

(d) to what extent Government propose to increase the investment in the Housing sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) whether the total investment in the country in the housing sector has steadily decreased from 34 per cent in the Fifth plan to just 9 per cent in the Seventh plan?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) and (e) The total public and private sector investment in Housing has recorded progressive increase in absolute monetary terms over the successive five year plan periods. However in terms of the percentage of housing investment to total investment in the economy, there has been a decline from 34 per cent in the First Plan (Not Fifth Plan) to 9 per cent in the Seventh Plan.

(b) No, Sir. The estimated total urban population 1981 was about 180 million, and precise figures will be available for 1991 only after completion of 1991 Census operation.

(c) The investment in housing in public and private sector is estimated to have gone up from Rs. 1150 crores in the First Plan to Rs. 31458 crores in the Seventh Plan.

(d) Investment in housing sector during the 8th Plan is yet to be finalised.

Shortage of diesel for agriculture sector

1149. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps this year to provide diesel to the farmers for agricultural purposes; if so, what are the details of the steps taken in this regard;

(d) what is the likely impact of the shortage of diesel on the agricultural production and also on movement of foodgrains this year and in what manner this shortage would be made good; and

(c) what is the percentage of farmers in the country who use diesel for agricultural purposes and what measures are being taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of diesel in future also to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHNDBHAI SHAH). (a) to (c) Farmers use diesel mainly for operating tractors, irrigation pumps and other power driven machines. Percentage of farmers owning and operating such machines has never been worked out, but is not likely to be large among the total number of farmers in the country. In view of the balance of payment constraints, certain restrictions were imposed in supply of High Speed Diesel (HSD) through retail outlets throughout the country with effect from 8-10-1990 and an 8 per cent cut was applied on supplies of HSD which was increased to 10 per cent from 1st November, 1990. State Governments complained about shortage of diesel and likely adverse impact on Rabi sowing, but no definite